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SUBJECT: UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY: UN SUPPORT FOR NEW AND
RESTORED DEMOCRACIES

REF: STATE 152465

¶1. (U) On November 5, the General Assembly considered Agenda item 12, Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies. Qatar introduced draft resolution A/62/L.9, which outlines the outcomes of the Sixth International Conference of New and Restored Democracies and calls for the promotion and strengthening of democracy through bilateral, regional and international cooperation. The resolution also calls for the annual observance of the International Day of Democracy on September 15. Several delegations made general statements. The resolution was adopted without a vote on November 8.

¶2. (U) Portugal, on behalf of the EU, expressed support for efforts of the chairs of the International Conference of New and Restored Democracies (ICNRD) and the Community of Democracies to bring the movements closer together. Mongolia, Nepal, Mexico and Morocco also spoke in support of ICNRD and outlined steps taken domestically to strengthen democracy. In contrast, the Cuban delegate criticized the Community of Democracies for what he called a narrow view of democracy and exclusionary practices. He complemented the work of the ICNRD for its more inclusive approach, which recognizes multiple paths to democracy and addresses economic and social development. The Cuban delegate expressed concern for the recommendations of the report of the Secretary General, which calls for increased collaboration between the UN and the Community of Democracies and between the Community of Democracies and the ICNRD.

¶3. (U) Noting the Secretary-General's suggestion that the UN could assist in creating mechanisms for coordination and cooperation among global democracy movements, India suggested that the UN should focus on institution and capacity building in member states.

Khalilzad